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COMOR-M-5

COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

Minutes of Meeting Held in Room 214
Administration Building, Central Intelligence Agency
at 2:30 p.m., 22 November 1960

PRESIDING

James Q. Reber
Chairman

MEMBERS PRESENT

Col. L. E. May, USAF
Deputy Chairman
Mr. M. Mitchell, OSD
Col. T. L. Fisher, JCS
Col. J. W. Boucher, OACSI

Cdr. H. D. Myles, ONI
Col. J. W. Winterbottom, AFCIN
[redacted] NSA
Mr. W. A. Tidwell, Jr., CIA

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CONSULTANTS PRESENT

Lt. Col. W. C. Herrington, JCS
Mr. J. T. Hughes, OACSI
Maj. G. S. Chapman, AFCIN
Maj. S. J. Moran, AFCIN
Mr. P. J. Nelson, AFCIN

[redacted]
Mr. A. C. Lundahl, CIA

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[redacted]
Mr. F. A. Voigt, CIA

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Approval of Minutes of the Last Meeting

1. The minutes of the last meeting (COMOR-M-4) were approved.

2. Comment was made by some of the fact that the minute was stamped ZEBUB when only the word was in the text of the minute. The Chairman stated that initially the minute had not been so stamped, but the TSO/CIA had indicated it should be. Accordingly, a request

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had gone out to the recipients to so mark the copy. The Chairman noted the complications arising from the discussion in the COMOR of matters relevant to various security systems or indicators and that already to accommodate this he had issued for the same meeting a separate T and a T-KH minute. He stated that hereafter he would issue only one minute with proper indicators which would be inclusive of all matters discussed regardless of the security compartment in which they belong. He realized that this would make it somewhat awkward for the members in passing the minute to officials in the members' agencies with a "need-to-know" for some items but not for others. The minutes, however, were principally a record of action of concern to and for the convenience of the members in their relations with the Committee and the Chairman suggested that each member work out his own arrangements to insure that information from the business of the Committee was properly relayed to those with a "must know" and who, of course, are properly cleared and indoctrinated for the subject matter involved.

Downgrading and Release of T Materials on East European Satellites and Communist China (COMOR-D-22/1)

3. The Chairman reported on the discussion of the reference paper by the USIB on November 15th calling attention to the fact that the membership seemed tentatively, at least, agreed to the recommendations of the COMOR except that the State Department wished to have Tibet and photography on areas adjoining Tibet excluded from the paper because of the sensitivity of the area. It had been proposed at the USIB that the materials on Indochina be included and no objection was raised. The matter was left that Ambassador Cumming would discuss the matter of the photography in West China with the Department. The Ambassador requested that a map showing coverage which had been presented to the USIB be made available to him after the meeting. This the Chairman did and subsequently heard from the Ambassador that the Department wished to exclude the West China photography, but would be willing to include South China and Indochina.

4. The COMOR after further discussion of the matter could see no sufficient reason for exclusion of West China and reaffirmed that the argument set forth in the reference paper was likewise and clearly applicable to West China as to East China.

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5. The COMOR considered also the date and strongly recommended that December 1959 be adopted.

6. The COMOR requested the Chairman to amend the paper to reflect these views and re-submit the matter to the USIB (see COMOR-D-22/2).

Suspect Missile Sites--USSR (COMOR-D-21)

7. It was agreed that the subject list should be taken into account by the COMOR in any future requirements action when its advice is needed and that it should be made available to photographic interpreters as a checklist in examining available photography. [redacted] noted the inaccuracies which still existed in the paper. [redacted] had prepared the paper from the submissions of the members and he requested that those interested in correcting the list meet with him in the Pentagon Annex 3, Room 207, at 0930, December 5.

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8. In the course of this discussion Colonel Winterbottom expressed the belief that these suspected sites when plotted on a map might be clustered in such a way as to affect our requirements guidance for future T-KH coverage and that it might be well now to make a re-examination of the highest priority TALENT list (COMOR-D-3) to reflect more adequately our attack on the missile site problem as well as to be more adaptable to satellite photography, the last list having been established with manned aircraft in mind. The Air Force offered to prepare a new highest list for consideration of the COMOR as a means of instituting the review.

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Downgrading of Graphic Materials

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10. The COMOR approved the paper as amended in para 4 a(4).

11. The Chairman stated that at the suggestion of Colonel Herrington he would now issue a downgrading and release paper on the USSR which would embrace all of the classification on this subject as well as the USIB action [redacted] as a convenience to the Members and so that there need be no oversight in implementation.

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Abandonment of URPIC-1

12. [redacted] indicated that Operations is in the process of withdrawing Detachment B except for a housekeeping team and proposed URPIC-1 be abandoned. He called attention to the fact that in the most recent Mid-East photography we had been able to depend upon URPIC-W at Wiesbaden satisfactorily. Colonel Winterbottom indicated that he had not heard of the withdrawal of Detachment B and that he would have to consult with his superiors on the proposal to withdraw URPIC-1. Final consideration was postponed pending Colonel Winterbottom's report.

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Photographic Coverage of Laos-North Viet Nam (COMOR-D-25)

13. Colonel Fisher reported that the requirement originally submitted by the Army will now be submitted to CINCPAC for coordination and subsequently referred to the JCS if necessary. The Chairman indicated that accordingly, unless the matter were raised again at the COMOR, this problem was not a matter of current concern to COMOR.

Surface-to-Air Missile Site in Albania [redacted] 12 Nov. 60)

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14. The subject reference had been distributed to the Members directly by the Navy representative. The burden of the subject memorandum is to request vertical photography [redacted] of the FRUITSET radar of the SAM site near Durres, Albania. The hope of the Navy was that analysis of quality photography [redacted]

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15. The Chairman, referring to earlier discussions among the agencies related to the FRUITSET at Glau (Germany) stated that it had been recommended that high quality ground photography of the equipment

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be obtained [REDACTED]

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The members indicated that they would want to have an opportunity to make a technical evaluation of this possibility.

16. Colonel Fisher requested that the matter be held in abeyance pending an examination by the JCS of the military capabilities to meet this requirement. This matter will be returned to the COMOR agenda at the initiative of the JCS.

Post-Operational Information on T-KH

17. Colonel Winterbottom requested that procedure be established for informing the Air Force of the success or failure, and if failure, reason therefore, immediately after T-KH missions. The JCS indicated it had a similar need. The Army and Navy felt that they had no need for such immediate information.

18. The Chairman stated that he would pass this request on to Colonel Beerli, the Chief/DPD, and that the Air Force and the JCS might expect to hear from him.

T-KH Slots for Weather Central

19. Colonel Winterbottom referred to a request submitted some time ago for a number of T-KH billets for Weather Central necessary for its support of T-KH operations. [REDACTED] replied that Operations did not consider the support from Weather Central to require more than the billets already provided and that billets for other purposes would not be considered T-KH Operations responsibility. [REDACTED] stated that a memorandum to this effect would be provided to the Air Force as requested by Colonel Winterbottom.

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Other T-KH Collection Capabilities

20. Colonel Winterbottom inquired whether there were other types of collection capabilities than photography in the T-KH capability. [REDACTED] answered that he knew of none, but he would inquire whether there had been any used. The Chairman stated that he knew of none and

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had assumed that if there were other intelligence gathering capabilities included in the T-KH capability COMOR would be informed.

Requirements for Future T-KH Missions

21. The COMOR was informed by [] that the next T-KH mission would be programmed to photograph the USSR on every pass where sun angle conditions permitted reasonable prospect of useable photography and that if as planned, it were a two-day orbit, Communist China would be covered additionally insofar as film availability permitted. The Chairman requested [] to alert COMOR sufficiently in advance of a T-KH mission to offer such requirements advice as it might have.

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Sanitization on Release of ZEBUB Items

23. Colonel Herrington inquired as to how soon cover stories for the release of ZEBUB items would be available. [] reported that the Agency was working on this problem and that he would report to the Chairman the status of this work on Friday, November 25 with a target date. The Chairman said he would relay the information to the members.

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JAMES Q. REBER

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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12--DDI(P) TCO

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14--OSI TCO

15--ORR TCO

16--Director, PIC

17--CIA TSO

18--C/DMD/PIC

19--C/DMD/PIC

20--IO/Ops/DPD

21--DDP TCO

22--SO/DPD

23, 24, 25--- Mr. Heires via DDI(P) TCO

26-30----- C/SRS/DPD/DDP

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